In the Claims

1. (original) An isolated purified sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor protein gene having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, or SEQ ID NO: 13.

2. (currently amended) A purified nucleic acid comprising a sequence of more ~~that~~ than 100 base pairs that is, or is complementary to, at least 100 bases of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, OR SEQ ~~I~~ID NO:13.

3. (currently amended) A genetic construct comprising a sequence of more ~~that~~ than 100 base pairs that is, or is complementary to, at least 100 bases of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, OR SEQ ID NO:13.

4. (original) A purified nucleic acid that hybridizes to a portion of the nucleic acid of SEQ 1ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, or SEQ ID NO: 13.

Claim 5 (canceled without prejudice).

6. (withdrawn) A method for screening for an autoimmune disease, comprising: providing a sample from a patient suspected of having an autoimmune disease; and screening said sample for over-expression of sppr.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6, in which said sample comprises RNA and said screening comprises measuring sppr mRNA.

Claim 8 (canceled without prejudice).

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6, in which said disease is LGL or rheumatoid arthritis.

Claim 10 (canceled without prejudice).

11. (original) A method of producing a recombinant sppr protein which comprises introducing a base sequence containing the sppr protein gene of claim 1 into a host to thereby transform said host, cultivating the thus-obtained transformant, and recovering the recombinant sppr protein thus produced.

12. (original) An expression vector which contains a gene as claimed in claim 1.

13. (original) A host cell which is transformed with a vector as claimed in claim 12.

14. (original) The purified nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein said nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

15. (original) The purified nucleic acid of claim 14 wherein said ribonucleic acid is mRNA.

16. (original) An antisense nucleic acid molecule complementary to the mRNA of claim 15, or a fragment thereof.

17. (original) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

18. (withdrawn) A method for screening for a neurodegenerative disease, comprising: providing a sample from a patient suspected of having a neurodegenerative disease; and screening said sample for over-expression of sppr.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, in which said sample comprises RNA and said screening comprises measuring sppr mRNA.

Claim 20 (canceled without prejudice).

Claims 1-20 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have withdrawn claims 6, 7, 9, 18, and 19 and canceled claims 5, 8, 10, and 20 without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Applicants intend to request rejoinder of the "withdrawn" claims 6, 7, 9, 18, and 19 (Groups III and V). Accordingly, claims 1-4, 11-17 are currently before the Examiner and claims 6, 7, 9, 18, and 19 are currently withdrawn. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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JL/amh
Attachments: Petition and Fee for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR §1.136(a); Election Under 35 §121